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No Scapegoat, Please

A question that recurs again and again, as one contemplates the abortive landings in Cuba by rebels bent on overthrow of the Castro regime, is this: How did it come about that the Central Intelligence Agency so grossly miscalculated the Cuban situation? Obtaining an answer to the question is of tremendous importance.

It is good to know, therefore, that the President has ordered Attorney General Kennedy to direct a thorough investigation of the CIA's activities. It also is good to know that the President's concern is not limited to this aspect of the matter. Not only the CIA, but the entire structure of our intelligence methods and the means of making decisions based on what those methods produce, ought now to be examined with great care. This is being done.

In this effort, and particularly in the investigation of the CIA, pains must be taken to avoid two things. One of these is the taint of partisanship. The security of this nation, and the part that intelligence procedure have in preserving security, is far too important to warrant playing any politics in this area.

The other thing that must be avoided is the temptation to find a scapegoat. Attaching primary blame for the Cuban mess to the CIA or any other agency would not help. Those reviewing intelligence and decision-making procedures should keep their eyes on the ball—and the ball, clearly, is such improvement that the United States will not again be caught off base because of poor intelligence.

The above editorial also appeared in the following other newspaper :

CUMBERLAND TIMES, MD. - APRIL 28, 1961
WAUSAU RECORD HERALD,
WIS. - APRIL 28, 1961
DOVER FOSTER'S DEMOCRAT,
N.H. APRIL 29, 1961
TACOMA NEWS TRIBUNE, WASH APRIL 28, 1961